Writing Off Loans Given from SDF

399. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta High Court has ruled that the Central Government are fully competent to write off loans given from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) to Steel Authority of India Limited and other Steel Companies in private sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the loans extended to the steel plants from the SDF and Government's reaction to the High Court ruling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The Calcutta High Court in its judgement dated 3.2.2000 has ruled, inter-alia that Steel plants industries in public sector can be treated differently than the plants industries in the private sector, including the matter of loan advanced from the Steel Development Fund (SDF). In case of Public Sector Industries (SAIL) Government can waive the interest or even can write off the loan itself.

(b) Details of loans extended to the main producers from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) as on 31.3.1999 are as under:

		Rs. Crores
(i)	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)	4761.44
(ii)	Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (TISCO)	905.10
(iii)	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO)	44.68

The Government accepts the judgement of the court.

Misuse of Aircrafts owned by SAIL

†400. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF RAMGOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India regarding the misuse of aeroplanes owned by the Steel Authority of India; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.